

Civilian Injury Prevention

The Army is transforming and we continue to be an Army at War; amid these challenges, we must take personal responsibility in delivering excellence in safety to prevent needless deaths, injuries, and illnesses.

In today's Army, civilian employees and contractors work side by side with our Soldiers to accomplish our many wartime missions at home and abroad. We have applied much attention and many resources to the Army Safety Campaign on preventing injuries and accidents involving Soldiers, and we now are broadening the focus of the campaign to include civilians and contractors as the next step. Therefore, I have asked my team to work closely with each MACOM to implement the Army Safety Campaign strategies in support of civilian and contractor injury prevention across the Army.

Let me start by stressing two memoranda already on the table for our actions on civilian employee injury prevention.

Secretary of Defense Memorandum Calling for a Reduction in Preventable Accidents. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, in a memorandum dated May 19, 2003, challenged the military departments to reduce the number of mishaps and accident rates by at least 50% using 2002 data as the baseline.

Presidential Safety, Health, and Return to Employment (SHARE) Initiative. On January 9, 2004, President George W. Bush established a safe workplace initiative for fiscal years 2004-2006 in a memo to the heads of executive departments and agencies. The initiative focused on four goals: Lower workplace injury and illness case rates, lower lost-time injury and illness rates, timely reporting of injuries and illnesses, and fewer lost days resulting from work injuries and illnesses.

These memoranda challenge us to do several things; 1) Examine our current civilian injury prevention programs and see where we are with respect to the injury rates, filing of claims, and lost production days; 2) Formulate a plan to achieve the goals set by the President and Secretary of Defense; 3) See where our efforts are paying off in Soldier accident prevention and determine how we can exploit these successes to assist our civilian injury prevention programs.

Additionally, there are "best practices" in accident and injury prevention used by private industry that, if applied to Army civilians, stand to have a great impact on our civilian program efforts.

I'd like to now say a word about contractors. The Army and DoD have many dedicated and capable contractors performing missions at all levels. Their service is important to us and their incapacity through accidents, injuries, or illness can directly or indirectly affect our ability to perform our missions.

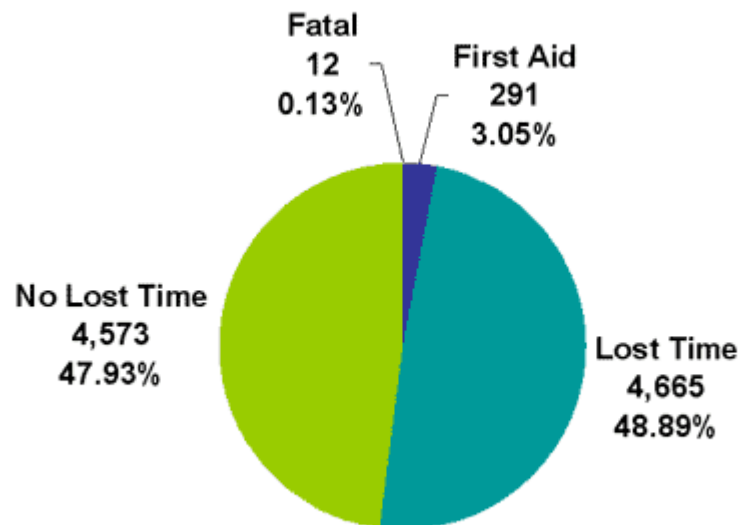
Therefore, it is important that we direct some of our accident prevention efforts to our contractor staffs. While we tend to leave most of the details of contractor safety to contracting officials (due to legal requirements, in most cases), we can and should provide them with safety and risk management information and assistance to the extent allowed by law and regulations. More will be coming out on this issue at a later date.

Your Safety Center staff is charging ahead with implementing these and other efforts and I will keep you updated of our progress. In the meantime, I recommend that you consult with your Human Resources and Safety folks to ensure efforts are pointed towards the civilian side of your risk management and safety program and to consider supporting the value added of your contractors by bringing them into your program where you can do so.

For further information or assistance, we are always available at <https://safety.army.mil>.

Smith

FY04 Army Civilian Injury Cases



Source: DoD Civilian Personnel Management System